crores approximately for each year. The sulphur imported during 1983 is 1.00 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 988 lakhs approximately. In 1984 contract is yet to be concluded for import of 50,000 MT.

(d) No final decision as yet is taken in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

126. [*Transferred to the 8th August, 1984.*]

Retirement of Station Director of Hyderabad Doordarshan

127. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Station Director of Doordarshan, Hyderabad has been forced to seek retirement; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Director, Upgraha Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad had asked for voluntary retirement from Government service with effect from the afternoon of 30-4-1984 and he was permitted to retire from service from that date.

Meeting of Chief Electoral Officers

128. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Election Commissioner convened a meeting of the Chief Electoral Officers on July 13, 1984; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made by the conference?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The conference of the Chief Electoral Officers was held on the 13th, 16th and 17th July, 1984.

(b) The Election Commission have intimated that the recommendations made by the conference are still at the stage of finalisation.

Persons on waiting lists for L.P.G. connections

129. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons on the waiting lists for the provision of LPG connections in the country as on the 30th June, 1984; and

(b) the number of LPG connections provided during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) The number of persons on waiting lists as on 30-6-84, in regard to Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation are 18.70 lakhs. In regard to Indian Oil Corporation the waiting list is 15.64 lakhs as on 31-3-1984.

(b) Around 2.50 lakh connections have been given during the last 3 months.

New LPG Agencies

130. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the places in the country where LPG agencies of various oil companies have been opened during the last six months; and

(b) what are the names of the places in the country where such agencies are likely to be opened during the next six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR

MISHRA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gap between demand and supply of prime coking coal

131. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the latest estimate the gap between the demand and supply of prime coking coal is 5 million tonnes and Government have decided to import coal;

(b) if so, what would be the cost of imported coal per tonne; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the abandoned mines of Giridih there is a deposit of 10 million tonnes of such high quality coking coal and if so, what are the reasons for importing coal instead of utilizing the Giridih coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Placing of Orders for Turbines with Foreign Countries

132. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders for 200 and 500 megawatt turbines have been placed with foreign companies for projects in Neyveli, Ramagundam, Rihand etc.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has not received sufficient order and is forced to work under capacity;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Joint Bipartite Committee of BHEL has protested against this policy of the Government and have made a joint representation; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Orders for turbine generator sets for the 200 MW units of Ramagundam project and the 500 MW units of Rihand project of NTPC have been placed with foreign companies. The Ramagundam project is partly financed by World Bank and the award for T.G. sets for this project was placed on the basis of International Competitive Bidding (ICB) as required under World Bank procedure. Domestic manufacturers are also entitled to compete under the ICB and, in fact, get a 15 per cent price preference. In case of Rihand project, the order for T.G. sets was placed on a U.K. firm, based on a package of financial assistance, including a grant of about £ 117 million, agreed to bilaterally between Governments of India and U.K.

Information in respect of Neyveli project is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has so far placed orders on BHEL for eleven T.G. sets and Boilers of 200 MW each, and eight T.G. sets and Boilers of 500 MW each, for its super thermal power projects. However, according to BHEL its capacity is underutilised.

(d) and (e) In February, 1983 the Joint Committee had in a resolution appealed to Government to fully utilise the capacity available in the country by awarding the contracts to BHEL. In this resolution, the Joint Bipartite Committee for BHEL had taken notice of a news-item in